

**Amendments to the Specification:****Please amend paragraph [36] with the following:**

(36) The ball trains the player to aim at a central core of optimum diameter, or more correctly phrased, “an image of a central core,” in order to minimize lateral cue ball deflection after striking while implementing sufficiently effective sidespin (refer to Fig. 3). I stated the “image” of the core because of the illusory, yet existent phenomenon of light refraction. For example, if I determined that the optimum inner core should appear ~~26 mm~~ 1.02 inches (26 mm) in diameter, the tangible inner core in reality would be designed smaller, about ~~18 or 19 mm~~ 0.71 or 0.75 inches (18 or 19 mm) in diameter. The refraction of light through the ball’s curved transparent outer shell will magnify the image of the inner core, approximately one-and-a-half times, and cause the inner core to appear larger, in exactly the same manner as with a common magnifying glass. Whereas the refraction of light may be a critical design consideration, whether illusory or not, it does not conflict with the inner core’s feasible aiming rationale.

**Please amend paragraph [37] with the following:**

(37) The above mentioned hypothetical inner core diameter appearance of ~~26 mm~~ 1.02 inches (26 mm), which expectedly has a radius of ~~13 mm~~ 0.51 inches (13 mm) (i.e., the diameter of a typical pool tip) is not an arbitrary guess. Most pool and carom billiard players use cue tip diameters sized from ~~11 to 14 mm~~ 0.43 to 0.55 inches (11 to 14 mm), that compute to a mean diameter of about ~~12.75 to 13 mm~~ 0.50 to 0.51 inches (12.75 to 13 mm).

**Please amend paragraph [46] with the following:**

(46) The ball also permits the inner core to be optimally adjusted relative to the cue stick tip sizes employed in various billiard games. For example, snooker cue sticks use an average tip diameter of about ~~9.5 mm~~ 0.37 inches (9.5 mm); pool and carom billiard cue sticks both use a tip diameter size about ~~12.75 to 13 mm~~ 0.50 to 0.51 inches (12.75 to 13 mm) in diameter.

Please amend paragraph [54] with the following amended paragraph:

(54) Reference numerals for drawings 1 – 5:

- 6 billiard training ball
- 7 opaque [[and/or]] and translucent inner core
- 8 transparent [[and/or]] and translucent outer covering
- 9 circumference
- 10 a,b object ball
- 11 cue stick (i.e., portion thereof)
- 12 standard pool table (i.e., portion thereof)
- 13 planar surface
- 14 right side rail
- 15 right corner pocket
- 16 end rail
- 17 left corner pocket
- 18 left side rail
- 19 a,b sidespin
- 20 direct alignment
- 21 a,b,c,d direction of deflection
- $\alpha$  angle of deflection
- $\beta$  angle of deflection
- $\theta$  angle of deflection

**Please amend paragraph [56] as follows:**

(56) Fig. 1: A billiard training ball 6 is shown in perspective view with a portion of a cue stick 11 poised and aligned for a pool shot with ball 6 and an object ball 10a toward a right corner pocket 15. For illustration, balls 6 and 10a are shown as disposed upon a portion of a standard pool table 12 having a planar surface 13 supporting them. Balls 6 and 10a have a generally spherical outer surface, as shown by an equal circumference 9. Ball 6 features a centered opaque [[and/or]] and translucent inner core 7 and a transparent [[and/or]] and translucent outer covering 8. Looking additionally to Fig. 1, wherein table 12 is shown having surface 13 bounded by a right side rail 14 and an end rail 16 that include pocket 15 between them;

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please amend the current Abstract as follows: